

Ted Sturdevant, Director
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

October 27, 2010

Dear Mr. Sturdevant,

Points to make in the letter (total rewrite, different tone and emphasis):

Who we are, why we were brought together, what we've accomplished, strong support of concept

Focus of our work since June: explain focus on permits; highlight shared elements of cost

Layman summary of recommendations: new type of monitoring in the permits

Looking forward to meeting with you

Next steps: we're not done. Looking forward to working with the launch committee and PSP.

On July 1, 2010 the Stormwater Work Group submitted to you and to the Puget Sound Partnership our recommendations for creating a new regional stormwater monitoring program for the Puget Sound region. At that time, our stakeholders had come to consensus agreement on 55 Key Recommendations for creating such a program. We also recognized that more work remained to be done, and in particular, more specific recommendations were needed in order for the next round of NPDES municipal stormwater permits to play a meaningful role in supporting the launch and ongoing implementation of the new regional stormwater monitoring program.

Attached to this letter is a report detailing our 33 further *Recommendations for Municipal Stormwater Permit Monitoring*. These recommendations focus on (1) creating an administrative means to pool the resources of municipalities and others to conduct regional monitoring and assessment activities, and (2) which specific activities should be conducted or paid for by NPDES municipal stormwater permittees.

Summary table of recommendations?

How to best respond to specific assignment about costs, prioritization, and state funding request that we specifically promised to address over the summer? This report focused on NPDES elements. At this time we are not recommending that Ecology or the Partnership seek new State funding to support the implementation of a regional stormwater monitoring program. The monitoring activities we recommend occur in the next three to five years are founded on existing capacity and supported by new funds that will be contributed by municipalities in Puget Sound. However, we do support your efforts to seek Federal funding to support the infrastructure and processes required to sustain the program, and/or for strategic expansion of the recommended monitoring activities to answer more questions about the ecosystem and effectiveness of management activities to improve conditions in Puget Sound.

How does this fit into the broader ecosystem monitoring program? TBD: launch committee working on.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss our monitoring recommendations. Please feel free to contact either me at 206.296.1986 or jim.simmonds@kingcounty.gov or Karen Dinicola, our Project Manager, at 360.407.6550 or karen.dinicola@ecy.wa.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jim Simmonds, Chair
Stormwater Work Group

cc: David Dicks, Executive Director, Puget Sound Partnership
Bill Wilkerson, Chair, Washington Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health